



**HB 191: An Act Regulating Pit Bulls; Prohibiting Ownership....and allowing Exceptions:**

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**On behalf of the 66 Montana Animal Care Association's public and private shelters and societies and the more than 14,000 Humane Society of the United States MONTANA members please DO NOT PASS HB191 because:**

- 1) Breed specific legislation does NOT work nor address the larger real issues of dog bites and potentially dangerous dogs. Temperament testing and pre adoption counseling are proven bite prevention methods.**
- 2) HB 191 will prove unenforceable and place an overwhelming burden on the public health and safety agencies, the prosecutors and the judiciary that cannot accept another unfunded and inefficient mandate:**
- 3) This would constitute an unfunded mandate to economically fragile shelters and societies as they would be forced to use inconclusive and expensive canid DNA tests and to retrain their staffs from working all breed temperament tests — to inconclusive and often wrong canid DNA tests and phenotypical (appearance) profiling. Dogs may have to be held in quarantine for months to wait for initial tests, secondary tests and then court battles over the determinations made on those tests.**
- 4) Again HB 191 is asking the state to rely on human visual exam and supplemental DNA to predict the behavior of a few breeds of dogs. This is a major redirection of resources from systems that have been designed and implemented over the last decade. You truly cannot judge a dog's behavior without testing that individual dog for its health, personal temperament and its environment. Real issues like is a 10% pit bull prohibited, a 30 percent? What about a 75 % golden retriever and 25% Pit????**
- 5) HB191's "shall euthanize" clause is both unnecessary and barbaric. Montana's shelters and societies evaluate each animal and develop a placement plan based upon the animal. Euthanasia is always an option when animal quality of life or public health and safety is considered. But Mandatory euthanasia of animals via statute is wrong and devalues the excellent breed rescue groups and agencies out there.**
- 6) HB 191 seems to want to eliminate every pit bull from Montana as a public safety issue...but them openly welcomes them into our communities, our fairgrounds and our schoolyards where most dog shows are held. This exception alone speaks volumes to the fact that the Breed is not the issue. It is the aggressive Deed of potentially dangerous behaviors that most be regulated.**

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